

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

April 4, 2016

www.op97.org

Important Dates:

April 4-9 - STEM week

April 5 - Brooks tour

April 7 - Science Fair (6:15-7:00pm - Parents/families welcome to see the boards in the multipurpose room. Winners will be announced at 7:00pm!)

April 9 - Staff vs. Parents basketball game fundraiser

April 13 - District 97 Choral Festival

April 15 - Staff vs. Student basketball game

April 20 - Parent Workshop: Navigating Friendships - Helping Your Child Develop Social Competence and Confidence

5th GRADE PARCC TESTING DATES: April 11, April 12, April 15, April 18, April 25, April 26, April 28

News:

Headphones for PARCC

All students need headphones for our upcoming PARCC assessments. Please check in with your student to confirm that they have headphones at school. If your student is unable to obtain headphones, please let your teacher know and we will be happy to help locate a pair.

Brooks Tour

On Tuesday, April 5, we will walk to Brooks Middle School for a tour of the school, followed by a question and answer session. There is no fee for this trip, but we will need a signed permission slip for each student. Permission slips will be sent home later this week. There will also be a parent orientation on April 6.

The Holmes School Spelling Bee!!

Spring is in the air and the bees will begin to start buzzing – it's spelling bee time. Preliminary rounds for each 1st - 5th grade classroom will be conducted during the school day (see dates below). Teachers will provide study lists. Each class will produce 2 finalists and 1 alternate (available in case one of the finalists can't make the finals competition for any reason). The final round competitions will be held in the evening by grade.

Here are the dates to remember:

March 23 (Wed):- Preliminary word lists distributed to students

April 4-15 - Preliminary rounds to be held in class

April 27 (Wed) - Final round for finalists in each grade (1st 5th)

(6pm start time with staggered start times by grade)

STEM Week

STEM Week @ Holmes is a series of programs celebrating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. All week long, we will get Holmes students excited about STEM fields with special visitors and activities. STEM Week @ Holmes is sponsored by the Holmes PTO.

Parent Workshop: Navigating Friendships - Helping Your Child Develop Social Competence & Confidence

Wednesday, April 20th, 6:30-8:30pm, Holmes Auditorium

The PTO is proud to partner with Parenthesis and Smartlove Family Services to host a parent workshop "Navigating Friendships: Helping Your Child Develop Social Competence & Confidence." Join us on Wednesday, April 20 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Holmes School Auditorium. Child care will be provided and we request that you register ahead of time so that we may plan accordingly.

For more information about this workshop, you can access the flyer [here](#).

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Typing Training from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Typing Training program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

Click here for our 2nd trimester newsletter- [SPECIALS DELIVERY](#)

Art

We'll be finishing up printmaking and beginning weaving in the next few weeks.

~Ms. Jones (kjones@op97.org)

Music

We will be learning the melody to our Completion Ceremony song. We will also be review the different orchestral instruments families with a lesson focusing on "Peter and the Wolf".

Chorus

We are now practicing for our District Festival which is on **April 13th**. Please click this link- [permission slip](#)- if you have not filled out the form yet. We will be traveling to Lincoln school on Tuesday morning for our second practice. 5th graders will be going in the afternoon on Tuesday to Brooks for the school tour. We will also be performing at the Chicago Wolves game on Saturday April 16th

Spanish

The fifth graders just finished their second [superhistoria about un cerdo named Pancho](#). Students can read the story at home for 10 bonus points. We will continue doing assessments this week.

Library, Reading Olympics

Congratulations to Tej Menon, Ezra Plotkin, and Roman Patazopoulos on their win at the district level! This is the **third** time in a row a Holmes team has won at the district level. Let's see if we can keep up our winning streak at this year's **Extreme Round**, Thursday, April 21. The Holmes competition will be the previous week. Any team wishing to participate should have their forms in to me this Wednesday. <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/Reading-Olympics.cfm>

Library

We will be starting a research project this week. Students will be researching a country of their choice, writing a narrative from the point of view of a student in that country, and making a movie that highlights a “day in the life...” in that country. We will be using the CultureGrams database through the OPPL [Homework Help](#) page. While the majority of the project will be done in the library, students may wish to access the databases at home. To do so, students will need an OPPL card and PIN. Don't forget to email me with any questions! mmaneck@op97.org

Physical Education

April 15th is our Annual Student vs, Staff Basketball Game. April also brings about our Dance Unit. The kids will be moving to different tunes while they boogie down to our p.e. School district Xbox 360 system. The dance unit will go on for the entire month of April.

Reading/Literature

This week, we will be continuing with our third trimester ELA Unit, titled “Change and Identity.” We will be starting to read our anchor text, *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt. Throughout this unit, students will be focusing on the following question, especially in relation to their transition to middle school: *What factors shape who you are as an individual and your role within society?*

Please make sure there is a parent or guardian checking, and initialing, students' reading logs each night!

Writing

Our writing time will be spent working on an expository writing piece about a great thinker. Students will be using research methods used for other essays to apply to this one.

Math

This week, students will be using their fraction knowledge to create fraction board games. We will work on the games in class and use some time on Friday to play the games. Next week, we will start a unit on decimals.

Science

In science this week, we will be practicing our oral presentations and finalizing our trifold posters for the Science Fair (Thursday, April 7th). Science Fair trifold posters should be completed by Tuesday, April 5th. **Parents and families are welcome to view the boards in the multipurpose room on April 7th from 6:15-7:00pm. Winners will be announce at 7:00pm.**

Social Studies

This week students will be sharing their Colonial Handbills using Google Maps. Students will learn about this process from our technology specialist, Elizabeth Conway. Once completed, students will be able to tour the map and access each others handbills.

Word Study

This week, we will work within Unit 4 Lesson 17 of our vocabulary curriculum, which focuses on the Latin bases *leg*, *lig*, *lect*, meaning “pick, read.” Students will have word work for this lesson due on Friday.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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